

It is a report prepared as part of the peer
to peer study program conducted in
kudumbashree state mission

STUDY ON THE COMMUNITY OF KITCHEN KUDUMBASHREE IN ATTAPPADY

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A study on the community kitchen run in Attappadi

Overview of the project and objectives

Community kitchen is a program aimed at addressing the malnourishment of the tribal community in Attappady, Palakkad district. It is the revival of the earlier practice of the community's practice of eating food together. It has helped improve the nutrition status of the community and enhanced solidarity. This has enabled the community especially women to come together to discuss their social issues. It started in 2013 and was managed by the social welfare department and in 2014, the management was shifted to the Kudumbashree mission. Presently run as a self-managed unit by the neighborhood groups where the NHGs purchase the provisions from the Maveli store, firewood, and vegetables, and the NHGs from the tribal community cook in turn. It was earlier one meal a day where the community ate in the evening. Firewood would be either bought or collected by the NHG depending on the local requirements. The tribal NHG purchases the provisions from the Maveli every month. The pregnant and lactating women, children from 6 months to 6 years of age, adolescent children, and elderly citizens were the main beneficiaries. At present, the food is being provided in the morning, afternoon, and evening to pregnant and lactating mothers. The community kitchen has also started using the vegetables grown by the community program was first managed by ICDS and later shifted to PMU, kudumbashree mission, Attappady in December 2014. The expenditure for the community kitchen in 2014-2015 was Rs.61,72,294, in 2015-2016 it was Rs.62954731, in 2016-2017, the expenditure was Rs. 766 lakhs and the number of beneficiaries was 9287 in 192 centers in 2016 and has risen to 15049. Now there is 97 community Kitchen and the number of beneficiaries is 10020.

Objectives of this program

- i. Improve the weight of infants and children and enhance the health status of pregnant women.
- ii. Help in the reduction of the anemic problem among the tribal.
- iii. empowerment of women.
- iv. Enhance the traditional agricultural activities
- v. Attain self-confidence and social commitment.

Methodology

The methodology used was the secondary research method. I used the previous studies conducted on the community kitchen and the impact details are based on that study. The respondents were elected people, government officials, ASHA workers, Anganwadi teachers, and Animators.

Reference

Kudumbashree website, documentation by Smt. S Santhi.

Impact of the subcomponent of the program

The community kitchens are linked with the community learning centers of the tribal. So the food will be provided from the community kitchens to the children in these learning centers.

Impacts that can be connected with this program

The following information based on the data shows the impact of this program.

- Neonatal deaths have come down from 31 in 2013 to 7 in 2019.
- The child mortality rate has been brought down from 6 (2013) to 2(2019).
- Miscarriage was reduced from 77(2013) to 20(2019).
- Intrauterine death has been reduced from 18(2013) to 4(2019).
- The birth weight of the babies is improving.

Suggestions

- Now the beneficiaries of this program have changed from the needy people to those who come with a plate for the food and this crowding has caused a decrease in the quality of the food. Tribal families neither cook in their house nor go to work and they prefer to abuse alcohol as they don't have to support the family financially because of this free food.
- The beneficiaries should be limited to pregnant and lactating women, children, and aged or bedridden people without delay in the time schedules.